

Welcome to . . .
Grand Rapids Community College
English as a Second Language
Community Resource Guide



**CLASSES IN THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA
SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES
IMMIGRATION, NATURALIZATION AND VISA INFORMATION**



Check out our website at www.grcc.edu/esl for information updates
Information prepared by the Counseling Center at Grand Rapids Community College

The following information has been gathered by Grand Rapids Community College. You will find program information and referrals for Adult Community Education, Social Service Agencies, Church Sponsored Classes, and Naturalization and Immigration information. Grand Rapids welcomes many new residents from different countries each year. There are many people in the community who work to make the transition to American life possible for new residents and visitors. We hope the information will be helpful. If anyone has any questions, comments, suggestions, or needs further information, please contact:

For information about the ESL Program:

English Department
Grand Rapids Community College
143 Bostwick NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Telephone: (616) 234-3360
www.grcc.edu/esl

For information about Registration:

Counseling and Career Center
Grand Rapids Community College
143 Bostwick NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Telephone: (616) 234-4130
www.grcc.edu/counseling

Special Note for International Students seeking student visas:

Unfortunately, at this time, the College does not admit international students who need student visas for the purpose of learning English. These students need to demonstrate English proficiency. For more information about International Student Admissions contact the Admissions Office or you can download an International Student Application at www.grcc.edu/admissions.

Students interested in international admission for the purpose of learning English can contact [Western Michigan University](#) or [Davenport University](#) for program information.

To receive a college catalog or to get information about admissions, please call the **Admissions Office** at (616) 234-4100. For information about financial aid, please call the **Financial Aid Office** at (616) 234-4030.

ESL Classes in the Grand Rapids Area (REVISED 5/22/06)

There are several educational opportunities in the Grand Rapids area to learn English. Davenport University and Grand Rapids Community College offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced ESL courses for a fee. Many local school districts offer ESL classes free through Adult Community Education. Also, several Social Service Agencies also provide ESL classes.

Higher Education

DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

6191 Kraft Ave.

Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Contact Person: Mike Zhang, Director of International Enrollment and Programs

Email: mike.zhang@davenport.edu

Phone: (616) 554-5078

- Classes offered:

Beginning Reading

Beginning Writing

Beginning Speaking, Listening, Conversation

Intermediate Reading

Intermediate Writing

Intermediate Speaking, Listening, Conversation

Advanced Speaking, Listening, Conversation

- Cost: TBA per credit hour. Classes 4.5 credit hours.

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

143 Bostwick NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact: Counseling and Career Center

Phone: (616) 234-4130

- Classes offered: four levels (beginning through advanced)

Reading and Vocabulary

Listening and Speaking

Writing and Grammar

- Cost: Tuition based on residency. Classes are 4 contact hours

Adult Community Education

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Vandenberg Adult Education Center
409 Lafayette St
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Person: Sarah Krontoft

Phone: (616) 819-3253

- On site classes offered at local businesses; call Pat West for information at 819-2862
- Next Registration: Call 819-3253 for registration dates. Generally, every 3 months
- Age requirements: Must be 20 years or older. Those 18 and 19 must show proof of high school graduation
- Cost: Free
- Limited child care provided
- Six levels of ESL instruction, Citizenship Classes, GED classes
- Morning and evening classes
- No summer available
- Fall registration begins Sept. 5-7, 2006 and classes begin Sept. 11th

GODFREY LEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1530 Grandville Ave SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Location: Corner of Clyde Park and Grandville

Contact Person: Thelma Meyer

Phone: (616) 241-5600

- Classes: Beginning and Intermediate level available
- Cost: Free
- No age restrictions
- No residency requirement
- Free childcare, bus passes, hot lunch
- Fall 2006 registration begins 2nd week of August, morning classes available
- Call for a testing appointment
- No summer available

GODWIN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Godwin Heights Learning Center

3333 S. Division

Wyoming, MI 49548

Contact Person: Jerry L. Emde

Phone: (616) 252-2042

- Cost only for 20 yrs and older: \$25 for adult students living in Godwin district; \$50 for out of district
- Age: 18 or older
- Residency: No restrictions
- Three levels of ESL available
- Morning, afternoon and evening classes
- Next registration date: Call for dates; currently there is a waiting list for this program
- To register: Call (616) 252-2042 for appointment with academic advisor
- Summer available (current students will be registered first)

GRAND HAVEN ADULT EDUCATION

106 South 6th St.

Grand Haven, MI 49417

Contact Person: Linda Ruitter

Phone: (616) 850-6880

- ESL Classes
- Individualized instruction
- Age: 18 and older
- Cost: Free
- Registration Dates: Open enrollment; sessions begin in September and February but students can begin at any time
- No summer available

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS (K-12)

Contact Person: Robert Saenz

Phone: (616) 819-2129

- Grand Rapids Public Schools has 20 language centers. There are four high school programs, four middle school programs, and twelve elementary school programs that offer English language classes. There are many bi-lingual and ESL programs to meet the needs of students.
- For students in K-12, contact your local school for information about ESL classes.

KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2930 Knapp NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Contact Person: Lorna Brown

Phone: (616) 364-5122

- Offers ESL classes to adult students enrolled in technical classes.
- Cost: Students over 20 years old with a high school diploma \$100.00 per semester. Free to non-high school graduates. No summer classes.

KENT COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

111 Library St. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Located in the Grand Rapids Public Library

Contact Person: Angela Mayer, Adult Tutoring Program Coordinator

or

Kristin Ekkes, Customized Workplace English Program Director

Phone: (616) 459-5151

- Offers one-on-one tutoring or small group sessions
- Encourages oral and written English proficiency
- Designed for adults
- Cost: free of charge with a minimum six-month commitment
- Enrollment: call for an appointment
- *Also Available:* Customized Workplace English Program (for companies)
 - Intensive Workplace ESL Program
 - Fee based group classes on-site
 - For companies in West Michigan(for individuals)
 - Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced levels
 - For individuals who are employed or looking for employment
 - Workplace and Life skills
- *Ottawa County Residents only:*
 - Classes begin July 11-September 28
 - Cost: free
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Level one: 6pm-8pm, Level two: 3:30-5:30pm
 - Location: 1830 172nd Ave. #G, Grand Haven, MI 49417
 - Call (616) 4595151 ext. 14 for details (Se habla español ext. 12)

KENTWOOD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

28 60th SE

Kentwood, MI 49548

Contact Person: Alice Andre, ESL Coordinator

Phone: (616) 261-6166

- Four levels available
- Age: Must be 18 or older
- No residency requirement; priority is given to Kentwood residents
- Cost: Free
- Students can come one to four nights; classes meet Monday through Thursday 4:30-8pm
- To register call office (616) 261-6166 and set up appointment
- No summer classes

SPARTA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

480 South State Street

Sparta, MI 49345

Contact Person: Mike O'Connor, Director

Phone: (616) 887-7321

- Sparta has a large English instruction program for migrant workers, which is held during the summer months only.

WASHINGTON EDUCATION CENTER (HOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

156 W. 11th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Contact Person: Gary Miller

Phone: (616) 355-1808

- Managed Enrollment
- Students must have picture ID.
- Age: 20 and up
- ESL Classes: 4 levels of English
- Morning and evening classes
- Cost: ESL - Free (GED testing: \$25/test for all 5 tests)

WYOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2950 Clyde Park SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Contact Person: Tom Spaak

Phone: (616) 530-7505 (Student Services)

- Two levels of ESL available (Beginning & Intermediate only)
- Cost: \$20 non-refundable registration fee
- Students must be 20 years old.
- Students who are 18 or 19 who have graduated from high school may attend free.
- No childcare; No transportation
- Evenings: Monday through Thursday 5:30-9:30pm
- To enroll: Students must enroll in person to be tested.
- Registration Dates: Call (616) 530-7505 for dates

ZEELAND WEST OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL

294 West Lakewood
Holland, MI 49424

Contact Person: individual sites for registration

Phone: (616) 395-2450

- Two locations:
 - Adult Education Center 294 West Lakewood: (616) 395-2450
 - Michigan Works! Job Connections 121 Clover St., Holland (616) 396-2154
- Cost: Free
- Morning and evening classes available
- Students can start anytime

Social Service Agencies

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Refugee Outreach Assistance and Referral Program

901 Eastern NE

P.O. Box 294

Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1294

Contact: Barb Foster

Phone: (616) 224-7540

- The Refugee Outreach Assistance and Referral program aims at the elimination of any barriers the refugees in need may have to accessing, receiving and maintaining low-income services. The program helps look and apply for services, outreaches needy refugees and advocates for them, and provides low-income related information to the refugee community and to organizations working with refugees.

P.A.R.A. (Programs Assisting Refugee Acculturation)

744 Burton SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Contact Person: Kara Hanson, Language Program Coordinator

Phone: (616) 247-9350

- P.A.R.A. is a refugee resettlement agency
- Recruits local church congregations to sponsor refugee families
- Assists in the resettlement process

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

2976 Ivanrest SW

Grandville, MI 49418

Contact Person: Linda Barr, Program Coordinator

or

Erica Spohr, VELT Coordinator

Phone: (616) 532-8286

- Comprehensive employment services available including translation, on-the-job training, and job upgrade services. Refugees of all English speaking levels available for employment.
- **Serving all refugees and asylees for up to five years of being in the USA.**
- English as a Second Language (ESL) available as Vocational English Language Training Program (VELT) on employer site, community based, and agency based sites. No cost to the employer or refugees/asylee for these classes.
- Intensive case management available for refugees needing specialized employment services.
- Holds the prime contract for Refugee Employment Service for the State of Michigan.
- Services free of charge. Not-for-profit agency.
- ITP Route #8. Easy access from other bus routes.

GRAND RAPIDS URBAN LEAGUE

745 Eastern SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (616) 245-2207

Contact Person: Dr. Walter Brame, Director

or

John Gussenbauer, Vice President of Programming

- Provides help finding housing and employment

HISPANIC CENTER OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

730 Grandville SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Person: Daisy Madrigal**Phone:** (616) 742-0200

- Work referrals
- Translation and interpretation services
- Referrals to other resources
- Assistance in filling out forms and paperwork
- Assistance with immigration
- Domestic violence and housing issues
- Youth program and tutoring age 13-19 years old
- Food distribution

MICHIGAN WORKS - SHELDON COMPLEX

121 Franklin SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Contact Person: Jim Thiel**Phone:** (616) 336-4040

- Mid level classes focuses on work and employment language, conversation, pronunciation
- Open enrollment held first Friday of every month
- Classes continue all year round
- Approximately 10 week program
- Students must have social security number to register

Church Sponsored Classes**BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

832 Grandville Ave. SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Person: John Vega, Pastor**Phone:** (616) 245-3718

- Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-8:30pm
- Six week sessions; three levels of ESL classes
- Cost: books and supplies (approximately \$25-30)
- Child care is available for a fee
- Large group setting
- All Spanish speakers

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT

3835 Burton SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Contact Person: Rick Eitman or Jill Frazee-Eitman**Phone:** (616) 956-7611

- Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6-8pm (no summer classes)
- ESL certified instructor
- Open to all (adults only)
- Classes held at 3065 East Paris Ave., Kentwood, MI
- Call in August 2006 to inquire about fall registration

GRAND RAPIDS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

3765 Kalamazoo Ave. SE

Kentwood, MI 49508

Contact Person: Max or Lizzy Quero

Phone: (616) 245-2151

- Wednesday evening 6:30-8:00pm
- No registration required
- Class emphasis is on speaking and listening
- All class materials and instruction are provided free of charge
- Childcare provided
- Classes available all year

KENTWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

1200 60th St.

Kentwood, MI 49508

Contact Person: Nancy (Max or Lizzy Quero)

Phone: (616) 455-0031 (698-0118)

- Tuesday evenings 7-9:00pm
- Open registration
- Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced levels
- Class emphasis is on speaking and listening
- All class materials and instruction are provided free of charge

LEONARD HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

1273 Lamont Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Contact Person: Sandy Weber

Phone: (616) 456-7668

- Classes every Sunday 11am-12:15pm
- Three levels
- Cost: Free
- Material includes some Biblical references, but is not a bible study
- Primarily Asian population

MARS HILL CHURCH

15 Andre SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Location: Health Intervention Services (near Burton & Division)

Contact Person:

Phone: (616) 475-8446

- Monday or Wednesday evenings 7-9pm; lesson is the same both nights; students are welcome to attend both nights
- 8 week sessions
- Cost: Free
- All Spanish speakers

ROOSEVELT PARK COMMUNITY CRC

811 Chicago Dr. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

Contact Person: Lisa DeYoung

Phone: (616) 447-9088

- Tuesday & Thursday evenings 5:30-7:30pm
- Beginning & Intermediate level
- New students may join anytime; no advance registration required
- 6 week sessions
- Summer session: Tuesdays only 5:30-7:30pm

STEEPLETOWN CENTER

671 Davis Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Contact Person: Sr. Carmen Rostar

Phone: (616) 454-4874 or (616) 451-4215

- Monday or Wednesday 10-11:30am; Tuesday or Thursday 7-8:30pm
- There is a wait list for evening times
- All levels; learners are assessed and lesson plans made according to level
- Priority given to those living in the NW side, zip code 49504
- Call anytime to be added to wait list

Naturalization and Immigration

CONGRESSMAN VERN EHLERS

110 Michigan NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Person: Nancy Ostapowicz (handles immigration matters)

Phone number: (616) 451-8383

U.S. GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

333 Mt. Elliott

Detroit, MI 48207

Phone number: (313) 568-6012

TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-375-5283

WEB SITE: www.ins.usdoj.gov